

ASIA SUNDAY 2015

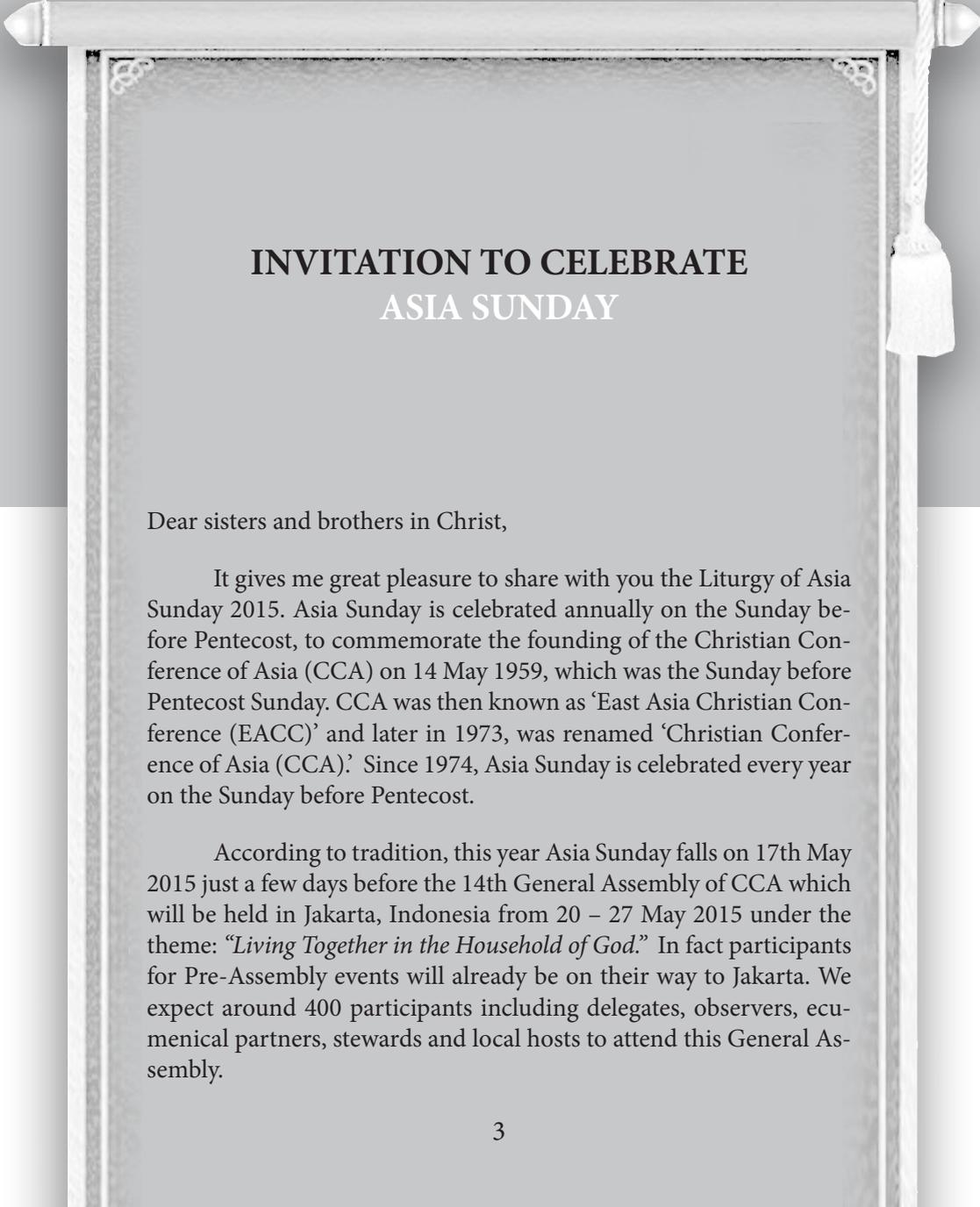
24 May 2015



Christian Conference of Asia



Asia Sunday 2015



INVITATION TO CELEBRATE ASIA SUNDAY

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the Liturgy of Asia Sunday 2015. Asia Sunday is celebrated annually on the Sunday before Pentecost, to commemorate the founding of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) on 14 May 1959, which was the Sunday before Pentecost Sunday. CCA was then known as 'East Asia Christian Conference (EACC)' and later in 1973, was renamed 'Christian Conference of Asia (CCA)'. Since 1974, Asia Sunday is celebrated every year on the Sunday before Pentecost.

According to tradition, this year Asia Sunday falls on 17th May 2015 just a few days before the 14th General Assembly of CCA which will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 20 – 27 May 2015 under the theme: *“Living Together in the Household of God.”* In fact participants for Pre-Assembly events will already be on their way to Jakarta. We expect around 400 participants including delegates, observers, ecumenical partners, stewards and local hosts to attend this General Assembly.

On Pentecost Sunday (24 May 2015), participants from diverse cultural, traditional, lingual and denominational backgrounds will have the unique opportunity to experience the spirit of Pentecost, when they join Indonesian brothers and sisters for worship, in local churches in Jakarta and its suburbs. It will indeed be appropriate to celebrate Asia Sunday on such a significant day as it reminds us of the gathering of many kinds of people on that first Pentecost Day.

“..... A crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” (Acts 2: 7-12) We would like to suggest that just for this year, if all of us in Asia celebrate Asia Sunday on Pentecost, then it will be a great day of prayer and spiritual blessings. It will add impetus to the wings of prayers for unity and fellowship among us and with all God’s creation.

This will enable us to celebrate our unity as Asian churches and as part of the global church beyond all borders and barriers uplift the concerns of Asian people; pray for God’s Spirit to guide the Assembly and show us the future directions of the ministry of CCA as a fellowship of Asian churches.

Moreover, this Sunday is also special as churches in Indonesia will be celebrating “Ecumenical Sunday,” to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (Persekutuan Gereja-gereja di Indonesia - PGI) which was formed on 25 May 1950. Every year, this celebration of unity among Indonesian churches is held on the Sunday closest to May 25, using a liturgy prepared by one of the PGI member churches. To date, PGI has 89 member churches including mainline Protestant denominations, indigenous churches, and a few Evangelical and Pentecostal churches. It is indeed

appropriate that as we celebrate Pentecost this year, we remember with gratitude, the grace of God which continues to encourage and inspire the churches to express their unity in Christ, and to witness Christ while we try to respond to our common challenges.

The General Committee arrived at the theme of the 14th CCA General Assembly after much discussion on Asian realities and the role of the churches and ecumenical communities in a rapidly changing Asian society where violence is escalating due to religious, ethnic and communal conflict, where peace and human security is threatened, and frequent environmental disasters cause considerable harm to people, property and life, destroying infrastructure and slowing economic growth. The theme reiterates that amid these alarming and dismal ground realities, the call of the churches in Asia and its people is to commit themselves to reaffirm the ‘sanctity of life’ and to be co-workers with God in protecting and sustaining the life of all creation, as “The earth is the Lords and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.” (Psalm 24:1, NRSV)

The world that was created by God is the abiding place or the ‘house’ where all God’s creation lives together, that is people of different backgrounds and the rest of God’s creation. All God’s creations are interdependent for the sustenance of life and, therefore, shall continue to weave their existence in such a way that they can live together in peace and harmony, and for the well-being of each other. (Colossians 1:16-17; 19-20).

Human beings are mandated to be responsible stewards of God’s creation, tending the garden of God. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15; Psalm 8:5-8; Luke 12:42-48; Romans 12:1-2; I Pet.4:10) This is a theme that implies and envisages a recommitment to responsive and responsible action to be pursued by churches, ecumenical organizations and individuals in the years to come.

We seek your kind assistance to circulate this Liturgy to the parishes and Christian communities, to translate it to the local languages, and if needed, adapt it to the local context. If in any cir-

cumstances you are unable to celebrate Asia Sunday on any of these suggested days, kindly feel free to celebrate it on any day that is best suited to your church.

Have a blessed Pentecost with faith in the promise of God, who says:

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams, and
Your young men shall see visions. (Joel 2:28)

Sincerely yours,



Henriette Hutabarat Lebang
General Secretary



ASIA SUNDAY 2015

Living Together in the Household of God

Gathering of the People

(May be accompanied with music, followed by a moment of silence for preparation)

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

Call to Worship

Holy Spirit, Creator,
In the beginning you hovered over the waters;
You breathe life into all creatures, without you
every living creature dies and returns to nothingness.
Come into us, Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, Comforter,
By you we are born again as children of God;
You make us living temples of your presence,
You pray within us with prayers too deep for words,
Come into us, Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, Giver of Life,
You are light, you bring us light;
You are goodness and the source of all goodness,
Come into us, Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, Breath of Life,
You sanctify and breathe life
into the whole body of the Church;
You dwell in each one of its members,
And will one day give new life to our mortal bodies,
Come into us, Holy Spirit. *(Taize prayer)*

Hymn of Praise: "Sing the LORD New Song"

(Sing the 1st Stanza /Sound the Bamboo 100)



1. *Nya-nyi-kan-lah nya-nyi-an ba-ru ba-gi Al-lah, Pen-cip-ta*
 2. *Pu-ji Di-a wa-hai men-ta-ri, wa-hai bu-lan, sem-bah-lah*
 1. Sing the LORD a new song and praise his whole cre-a-tion, the earth and
 2. Praise the LORD in heav-en, O sun and moon and plan-ets, a-dore un-
 * 3. Praise your LORD, O heav-en of heav-ens, join his prais-es, O wa-ters



ca-kra-wa-la. Se-ga-la se-ra-fim ke-ru-bim, pu-ji-lah
Di-a te-rus, dan wa-hai bin-tang-bin-tang te-rang yang ge-mer-
 heav-ens a-bove; all ser-a-phim will praise him with all the hosts of
 ceas-ing-ly now; O stars that glim-mer with sil-ver light, il-lu-mi-
 gird-ling the earth; come glo-ri-fy the pow-er that with the voice of



Di-a be-sar-kan-lah Na-ma-Nya. Ber-so-rak so-rai ba-
lap-an, mu-lia-kan Pen-cip-ta-Mu. Ber-so-rak so-rai ba-
 cher-u-bim join-ing voi-ces in praise. Great is his name, sing his
 nate your cre-a-tor with beam-ing praise. Great is your mak-er, re-
 heav-en said, "let there be wa-ters now." Great is your king, glo-ry



gi Ra-ja-mu! Ber-so-rak so-rai ba-gi Ra-ja-mu!
gi Ra-ja-mu! Ber-so-rak so-rai ba-gi Ra-ja-mu!
 praise and re-joice; great is his name, sing his praise and re-joice.
 joice in his name; great is your mak-er, re-joice in his name.
 be his do-main; great is your king, glo-ry be his do-main.

(Words: Psalm 148; Tilly Lubis, Indonesia; para. Rolando S. Tinio
 Music: NYANYIKANLAH; Traditional Batak melody, Toba, Indonesia)

*Please be seated

Communal Reading of Psalm: Psalm 104:24 -34

How many are your works, Lord!
 In wisdom you made them all;
 The earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number.
There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan,
which you formed to frolic there.

All creatures look to you to give them their food
 When you give it to them, they gather it up;
 When you open your hand, they are satisfied
When you hide your face, they are terrified;
When you take away their breath,
they die and return to the dust.
When you send your Spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
 May the LORD rejoice in his works—
 He who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
 who touches the mountains, and they smoke.
I will sing to the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
as I rejoice in the LORD.

Hymn of Praise: "Sing the LORD New Song"

(Sing the 2nd & 3rd Stanzas! /Sound the Bamboo 100)

Confession

Voices of Lamentation

Voice 1

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone
 those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children

together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. (Mathew 23:37)

Have mercy on us, Lord, Have mercy on us (3 times)

(♩ = 88)

1,3. *Khu - daa - yaa rae - ham kar, Khu - daa - yaa rae - ham,*
 (1,3. *Have mer - cy on us, LORD, have mer - cy on us.*

Khu - daa - yaa rae - ham kar, Khu - daa - yaa rae - ham,
Have mer - cy on us, LORD, have mer - cy on us.

Khu - daa - yaa rae - ham kar, Khu - daa - yaa rae - ham.
Have mer - cy on us, LORD, have mer - cy on us. Fine

(Words: Traditional, Pakistan
 Music: Khudaya; R. F. Liberius, Pakistan
Sound the Bamboo No. 120)

Response

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. (1Corinthians 12: 12-13)

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1Peter 2:9-10)

Voice 2

I am hungry and ask for rice and wheat.
But people say... cash crops are more important.
Foreign exchange is our prime need.

I am thirsty and ask for more wells and water taps.
But people say... cities first! For them more flyovers,
pools, parks playgrounds and the rest!

I am naked and asked for a sheet.
But people say... Beat it..
We have an export order for readymade garments to meet.

I am a stranger, a refugee and ask for asylum.
But people say... house full, there is no more room.

I am in prison and begged to be released.
But people say... Let the law take its course.

Have mercy on us, Lord, Have mercy on us (3 times)

Response

Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me. (Matthew 25:34-36)

Voice 3

The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers, the exalted of the earth languish. The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth's inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left. (Isaiah 24:4-6)

Have mercy on us, Lord, Have mercy on us (3 times)

Response

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth disappeared, and the sea vanished. And I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared and ready, like a bride dressed to meet her husband. I heard a loud voice speaking from the throne: "Now God's home is with mankind! He will be no more death, no more grief of crying or pain. The old things have disappeared. (Revelation 21: 1-4)

Assurance of Pardon

In Christ we were marked with the Holy Spirit,
a seal of our redemption in Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit.
We become dead in sin and alive anew in Christ.
May you be filled with the Holy Spirit
so that you may have hope of new life.
May you grow in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and may you experience the incomparable power of God
that raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead.

(The Worship Source Book)

Affirmation of Faith (in Unison)

We believe in one God, Author of life, Creator of the universe.

We believe in the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who came into the world, the household of God, to seek the lost and to redeem the whole creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Giver of life, who leads us to all truth, renewing us and enabling us to grow in the likeness of Christ.

We affirm that the church in Asia has a mission for today as it gathers for worship, proclaims the Good News, and works with those who struggle to see justice and freedom won by the peoples of our region.

We affirm the dignity of all who live in the household of God and the basic right of all human beings to develop as children of God for whom Christ has given Himself in love.

Our hope is in Jesus Christ whose purposes are fulfilled through His people. Amen.

(adapted from the opening liturgy of the 7th Assembly of CCA, 1981)

**Please stand*

Hymn of Faith: "Jesus, Our True Lord of Love" (Sound the Bamboo 192)

(♩ = 56)

1. Sa - rang - ūi ju - nim Ye - su se - sang - e o - shōn - ne,
2. Ja - bi - ūi ju - nim Ye - su se - sang - e o - shōn - ne,
1. Je - sus, our true Lord of Love, come to be al - ways with us,
2. Je - sus, our mer - ci - ful Lord, come to be al - ways with us,
3. Je - sus, of jus - tice, our Lord, come to be al - ways with us,

Ka - nan - han u - ri - e - ge, sae - gi - ppūm ju - shi - ryō.
Nun - i - mōn u - ri - e - ge, sae - bi - chūl ju - shi - ryō.
though we are poor and op - pressed, com - ing to give us new life.
though we are blind and can't see, com - ing to give us new sight.
though we are cap - tives in chains, com - ing to free us a - new.

U - ri - ūi Im - ma - nu - el a - gi - ro - shōn - ne
U - ri - ūi Im - ma - nu - el in - ja - ro o - shōn - ne
God with us, Im - man - u - el, born as a ba - by to - day,
God with us, Im - man - u - el, born as our broth - er to - day,
God with us, Im - man - u - el, born as our sove - reign to - day,

Sa-rang-üi ki-ppün-so-sik u-ri-mam nöm-chi-ri.
 Ja-bi-üi kwi-han son-gil u-ri-nun bal-ki-ri.
 bring-ing the good news of love, fill-ing our hearts with joy.
 spread-ing your hands wide with mer-cy, fill-ing our eyes with light.
 do-ing the good work of jus-tice, fill-ing our world with peace.

(Words: Ke Joon Lee, Korea; tr. Marion Pope
 Music: IMMANUEL; Doo Wan Kim, Korea)

**Please be seated*

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 37:1- 14

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign Lord, you alone know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’”

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’”

So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.’”

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me

explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15

When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

I did not tell you this at first because I was with you. Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going? Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. 'I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.'

Sermon: "Living Together in the Household of God"

Offering

*[To be accompanied by choir or music. In addition to regular offering, you are invited to make a special **Asia Sunday Offering** that will go **towards the Emergency Fund of the Christian Conference of Asia.**]*

Intercessory Prayer

1. Lord, strengthen our longing for the unity of Christians;
Help us not to obstruct our faith and
its demands by cultural practices;
Teach us to discern new ways to advance towards unity;
Make us ready, from now on, to do together everything
which our faith does not oblige us to do separately,
deepen our faith.
Thus prepare us for unity
with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

**In the midst of diversities separating us;
In the midst of rivalries disuniting us;
In the midst of antipathies building barriers among us;
In the midst of differences dividing us,
You call us, Lord to unity and love.**

You are re-creating us into one humanity.
Grant us the vision of our unity in you.
Grant us the vision of our new humanity,
so we may serve one another in love.

2. Gracious God, your Holy Spirit
hovered over the waters at creation.
You made a world that was breathtaking and life-giving.
Sin invaded this world and shattered it.
Pollution, disease, and natural disasters plague our world.
God, our provider, heal the sick, give peace to the dying,
shelter the homeless, and protect the vulnerable.
With your Holy Spirit, renew your creation.

When you formed humanity, you breathed your spirit into us.
You walked in the garden, you wanted fellowship with us.
Our sin separated us from you,
so we live in a world of pain, and hurt.
Some are hungry. Some are lonely. Some are empty.
Almighty God, giver of strength,
feed the hungry, quench the thirsty,
support the orphans, uplift the depressed,
and free the downtrodden.
**With your Holy Spirit, Lord,
point us to new life in Christ.**

You called a people to be your own
and to be a light to the world.
Throughout the world your church suffers.
Some are mocked for professing your name.
Some are killed for praying to you.
Some pursue personal preferences rather than loving unity.

God, our refuge, shield from harm those who love you,
Surround us with your mercy,
and gird your church with the fruit of your Spirit.
**With your Holy Spirit, Lord,
empower your church to witness your glory.**

(1 & 2 The Worship Source Book)

3. God of Asia, and of all lands and people,
We thank you for your abundance and bountiful grace,
In blessing us with precious natural resources and a beautiful world
Each morning brings us a new day
to live and admire your handiwork,
To praise and thank you and work for
the values that you taught us to uphold.
We thank you Lord for the growth and progress of nations,
for the heights of success to which your people rise
in science, technology, arts and economy.

Yet the success in Asia hides the real challenges
of widespread corruption, persistent poverty,
gender discrimination, marginalization of minorities,
the disabled, the dalits and the indigenous;
Religious and ethnic conflicts and environmental threats.

We pray for the Holy Spirit to breathe wisdom
and discretion on our Governments,
all religious leaders and people of good will,
to wake up to these challenges, so that
there will be peace and understanding, food and freedom,
social and economic justice and fullness of life,
for all who live in the household of God,
**With your Holy Spirit, Lord,
renew your people and all creation.**

4. We pray for the Ecumenical movement
in Asia and around the world.
As we commemorate the 58th anniversary
of the Christian Conference of Asia,
we give thanks and praise for your guidance and faithfulness,
for accompanying the churches to witness Christ
in the spirit of ecumenism.
We humbly seek your guidance
in the deliberations of the Assembly.
**With your Holy Spirit, Lord,
inspire your church to journey together
for justice and peace for all.**
5. Let us spend a moment in silent prayer

**Through the grace of Jesus Christ
and the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Please stand*

Hymn of Commitment: "Lord of Life" (*Sound the Bamboo* 267)

Unison (♩ = 84)

1. LORD of life and LORD of na - tions, giv - ing peace, you make us one:
 2. Lengths of love be - yond all mea - sure, heights of love which now do call,
 3. Vi - sions new and an - cient dream - ing see the love be - yond all death;

heart of flesh for heart of stone, break the walls of all di - vi - sion. Your
 breadth of love as room for all, depths of love where hide the trea - sure, through
 new the heav - ens, new the earth: prom - ise of the king - dom com - ing. Through

king - dom come, with this its sign: our song this prayer: let peace now reign.
 Christ, our Way, we find true peace, a world made whole in God's em - brace.
 Christ the wounds of all this world in God's own peace will then be healed.

(Words: Anthony Kelly, Australia
 Music: GOD OF PEACE; Christopher Willcock, Australia)

Sending Forth

Go forth into the world in peace;
 be of good courage; hold fast that which is good;
 render to no man evil for evil;
 strengthen the fainthearted;
 support the weak; help the afflicted;
 honor all people; love and serve the Lord,
 rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Blessing

The Lord bless and keep you;
 the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. (Num -
 bers 6:24-26)
Amen.





**14th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA
Jakarta Indonesia, 20 - 27 May 2015**



Christian Conference of Asia